



Beechworth Primary School

Be ...

Respectful, **S**afe, **P**ersistent, **C**aring ... **A**lways!

## NUT AND FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

*Beechworth Primary School values diversity and is committed to the implementation of Child Safe Standards to promote the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of all young people.*



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

### PURPOSE

To ensure that Beechworth Primary School;

- Provides as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of illness, allergic reaction or anaphylactic (severe allergic) reactions to food substances can participate equally in all aspects of schooling,
- Raises awareness about nut and food allergies,
- Engages with parents/carers of students at risk of a reaction to nuts or a food substance in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and the management strategies for the student according to their child's personal needs,
- Ensures that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction,
- Complies with Ministerial Order No: 706 and associated guidelines,
- Follows, in the event of a reaction, the school's first aid and emergency management response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students who have been diagnosed with a food allergy and their parents and carers
- the general population of students
- parents and carers

### POLICY

This policy should be read with Beechworth Primary School's First Aid, Administration of Medication, Anaphylaxis and Asthma policies.

## RISK MINIMISATION

Beechworth Primary School is committed to implementing the following strategies to minimise risk to students known and unknown to have nut and/or food allergies:

- The school will send out an information sheet to the class parent community on severe allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis for a student in a class.
- Alert parents to strategies that the school has in place and the need for their child to not share food and to wash hands after eating.

### Parents:

- All parents will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.
- On enrolment, or when an issue arises, parents/carers are required to advise the school in writing and discuss the condition with the School First Aid Officer and classroom teacher. - refer to Anaphylaxis policy for severe/anaphylactic cases.

### Students:

- Are requested not to share food
- Are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating
- Who bring foods containing nuts, nut products, or potential known food allergen substances are required to eat that food away from students with intolerances/allergic reactions

### Staff:

- Will know the identities of children with food allergies and those at risk of anaphylaxis
- Will be aware of all anaphylaxis management plans at the school
- Will attend regular anaphylaxis training sessions.
- Will supervise students during eating times and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.
- **Food rewards** should be discouraged, and non-food rewards encouraged. Where food rewards are offered, healthy eating, dietary requirements and allergies are to be considered.

### Special Events:

- Notices may need to be sent to parent community discouraging specific food products (e.g. nuts) where appropriate.
- Where food is for sale, a list of ingredients should be available for each food.

### Class parties or birthday celebrations:

- Discuss these activities with the parents or guardians of the child with allergy well in advance.
- Suggest that a notice is sent home to all parents prior to the event, discouraging specific food products (e.g. nuts) where appropriate.
- Ideally (where appropriate) students with intolerances/allergies should bring their own food.
- These children can participate in spontaneous birthday celebrations by parents supplying 'treat box' or safe cupcakes stored in the freezer in a labelled sealed container.

### Cooking/food technology:

- Teachers will engage parents or guardians and older children in discussions prior to cooking sessions and activities that use food.

### Camps and Excursions:

- Check if excursion includes a food related activity, if so discuss with the parent or guardian.
- Discussions by school staff and parents or guardians with the operators of the camp facility should be undertaken well in advance of camp.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school’s website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at annually at staff meetings and when a new concern arises
- Made available in hard copy from school office upon request
- Regular reminders placed in School Newsletter
- Reminders distributed to families of individual classes as needed

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Beechworth Primary School policies:

- *Duty of Care Policy*
- *Yard Duty and Supervision Policy*
- *Health Care Needs Policy*
- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Camps and Excursions Policy*
- *First Aid Policy*

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

1. The Department’s Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
  - [Anaphylaxis Policy](#)
2. [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#)
3. ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](#)
4. Royal Children’s Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2024
Consultation	BPS Senior First Aid Officer - 2/5/2024 BPS Staff (Staff Meeting) – 5/6/2024 School Council - 22/5/2024 & 12/6/2024
Approved by	Principal – Susan McDonald
Next scheduled review date	July 2027